

B¹ 12. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein after coagulation, the porous film is rinsed with water, dried and then stretched to a factor of 1.3-5 in the uniaxial direction or to a factor of 1.3-10 in the orthogonal biaxial directions on an area scale, at a temperature of 270-340°C.

13. (Amended) A process according to claim 8 wherein, after coagulation, the porous film is further stretched in a stretching bath comprising an amide-based solvent containing a non-solvent for the polymetaphenylene isophthalamide-based polymer.

B² 15. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the coagulation is followed by immersion in a bath comprising an amide-based solvent containing a non-solvent for the polymetaphenylene isophthalamide-based polymer, with an amide-based solvent concentration of 50-80 wt% and a temperature of 50-98°C.

B³ 22. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein the dope used is one in which inorganic whiskers are dispersed and a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide-based polymer is dissolved in an amide-based solvent.

B⁴ 33. (Amended) A battery separator comprising a porous film according to any one of claims 27 to 30.

Please add the following new claims:

B⁵ 35. (New) A method of using a porous film according to any one of claims 1-3 and 5-6 comprising placing said porous film as a battery separator between a positive electrode and a negative electrode in a battery.

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cancel* 36. (New) A lithium ion battery comprising a battery separator situated between a positive electrode and a negative electrode, wherein said battery separator comprises a porous film according to any one of claims 1-3 and 5-6.
